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A LETTER
From a Gentleman in
EXETER
To his Friend in
LONDON.

SIR,

I Have received yours, and had long e're this given you an Account of the ſtate of Affairs with us, had there not been apparent hazard both to you and my ſelf by doing it, both Parties examining Letters; and if any thing I had written had been miſ-interpreted, it might have been very prejudicial to one or other of us. I ſhall now give you the Trueſt and moſt Exact Information that can poſſible be given of ſo great an undertaking; which take as follows.

The Prince of *Orange* arriv'd at *Torbay* on *Monday Novemb.* 5. about twelve of the Clock; by three in the Afternoon we had the News thereof brought to this City, by ſeveral Expreſſes to the Earl of *B.* they landed all their Horſe firſt, and after that their Foot, the Army being all on ſhore by three of the Clock in the Afternoon, all the Baggage, Proviſion and Ammunition being ſent about from *Topſham*, whence they were brought by Water to this City: abundance there were that landed with the Prince at *Torbay* for preſent Service, in caſe there were need. The *Wedneſday*, being the ſeventh Inſtant, one Captain *Hicks* came to Town, Son to Mr. *Hicks* late of *Portſmouth*; and as ſoon as he came, the people in very great numbers flock'd to him, to Liſt themſelves in the Service of the Prince of *Orange*; which the Mayor hearing of, ſent for him, and demanded of him whether he had a Commiſſion for what he did, but he would produce none, nor give any account of the ſaid Deſign, whereupon he was committed to Priſon. The concourſe of the people was ſo great about the *Guildhall*, that they would not ſuffer him to be carried away; ſo he remained there till the next day, in the cuſtody of two Conſtables, and was very nobly provided for by the Mayor.

On *Thurſday* the Lord *Mordant*, with three or four Troops of Horſe came to Town, and Dr. *Burnet* with him; when they came to the Gate of this City, it was ſhut againſt them, upon which the Lord *Mordant* commanded the Porter to open the Gate on pain of death, which was preſently ſet open, and being open, required him on the ſame penalty not to ſhut it again. As ſoon as they were entred, the Lord *Mordant* went immediately to the Hall, and ſet Captain *Hicks* at Liberty, and enquired of his uſage, who gave the Lord *Mordant* a very large account of the Mayors reſpect and civility to him; upon which there was a Guiney given to them that waited on him. That Afternoon the Lord *Mordant* and Dr. *Burnet* waited on the Mayor to know if he would meet the Prince of *Orange* at the Gate, and govern the City under him, which he excuſed, and told them he was under the obligation of an Oath to His Majeſty, and therefore deſired he would lay no command on him that ſhould be prejudicial to his Conſcience; and after ſome debate of the matter 'twas determined.

Thurſday they continued coming into Town; on *Friday* the Prince came with his Guard; they were marching into, and ſome thro' the City to places adjacent about three hours without ceaſing, and more or leſs they came in ſtill until night. Men better Horſt I never ſaw in all my life. *Saturday*, moſt part of the day, *Sabbath-day*, *Monday* and *Tueſday* the main Body of the Army came, and moſt of them, only ſome few Regiments of Foot marched to *Tiverton*, *Collumpton*, *Honiton*, &c. and

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to the Neighbouring Parishes, and the Foot to *Clift Heath* where they Encampt and pitched their Tents. The Bishop fled, and is come for *London*, and we Hear is made Archbishop of *York*. The Dean likewise withdrew, whose House the Prince took for his Lodgings. The Lord's Day Dr. *Burnet* Preacht at the Cathedral on the last *v.* of *Psalm* 107. *Whoso is wise, and will observe these things; even they shall understand the loving kindness of the Lord.* Wherein he observes the wonderful Providence of God towards them in the whole Conduct of Affairs in this undertaking, and how they intended to have Landed the 4th of *November* if it had been possible, it being the Prince's Birth-day, and the Day of his Marriage to the Princess, but they could not possibly make to the Land, and so could not get Ashore till the 5th, that our Deliverance might be begun on the same Day it formerly was designed for Ruin and Destruction. *Monday* all the Cannons that were in the Town were summoned to appear in the Quire. And likewise the Singing men; where after they had Sung *Te Deum*, Dr. *Burnet* read the Prince's Declaration, and after the Declaration, a short Prayer for the success of the Prince, and so departed, there was not one of the Cannons appeared, and when the Declaration was reading, the Singing men went away, they being commanded in their Service to forbear praying for the Prince of *Wales*.

Monday Captain *Burrington*, who lives by *Creditton* came to the Prince, and offered him his Service, who was very kindly received by him; after that every day the Gentry from all parts of *Devon* and *Somerset*, &c. flocked to him in great numbers, it would take up too much time to name them, few absenting themselves, and those that did there is great notice taken of them. They have entred into an Association to stand and fall with the Prince. Several Lords came to him while here, as the Lord *Colchester*, *Shrewsbury*, ——— *Cornbury*. There were seven *Scotch* Lords, one *Irish*, and eighteen *English* Lords that came over with him. It is incredible to tell you what they have brought with them, unless you saw it, there being 200 of their Ships come into the River of *Topsham*. *Plymouth* Fort is surrendred to the Prince by the Earl of *Bath*, and the Popish Officers that were there, with Father *Turner* are seized and secured, and the Popish Souldiers discharg'd, and coming hither and owning themselves such, are committed by Mr. *Seymour*, who is made our Governor, and one Major *Gibbons* Deputy Governor. Here are several Thousand Souldiers that have Listed themselves, and many Thousands more would have done the same, but the *Marischal de Schomberg* told the Prince there was no need of them; so they were dismist again. They have a vast Treasure with them, I am certainly inform'd of Fifty Waggon load of Money. They have Landed about 120 Field-pieces, several of which remain here, and the others are gone with the Prince. They have also brought three Ships laden with Fire-works, and as many Arms as will serve 60000 Men, besides Aparrel. They have one Company that are all six Foot and a half high. The last News we had was that the Prince was at the E. of *Bristol*'s near *Sherbourn*, where we are inform'd that Prince *George*, the Duke of *Grafton*, the Lord *Churchill*, and Collonel *Trelawny* met him, and that the Prince saluted them in the words of *David* to the men of *Judah* and *Benjamin* in the 1 *Chron.* 12.17. *And* David *went out to meet them, and answered and said unto them: If ye be come peaceably unto me to help me, mine heart shall be knit unto you: but if ye be come to betray me to mine enemies, seeing there is no wrong in mine hands: the God of our Fathers look thereon, and rebuke it.* And they replyed in the words of *Amasai* in the 18th verse. *Then the Spirit came upon* Amasai, *who was chief of the Captains, and he said, Thine are we,* David, *and on thy side, thou Son of* Jesse: *Peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thy helpers, for thy God helpeth thee. Then* David *received them, and made them Captains of the Band.* The Prince at his going from hence gave the Mayor this Character, That he was worthy to be trusted, for being faithful to his Trust. There are very many other things of lesser moment, which I have not time to treat, neither shall I trouble you with them.

POSTSCRIPT.

WE have had two Alarms this week of the *French* being landed, one at *Salcomb* in the South, and the other at *Portlock* in the North Seas, but both prove stories; the Country appeared with Sithes, Hay-knives, Corn-pikes, Muskets, and other Instruments that could be got wherewith to encounter them: I believe there were at least an hundred thousand in all places in the Country in Arms. At *Dunsford* the people ran away to Arms, and left the Corps when they were going to Burial.

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